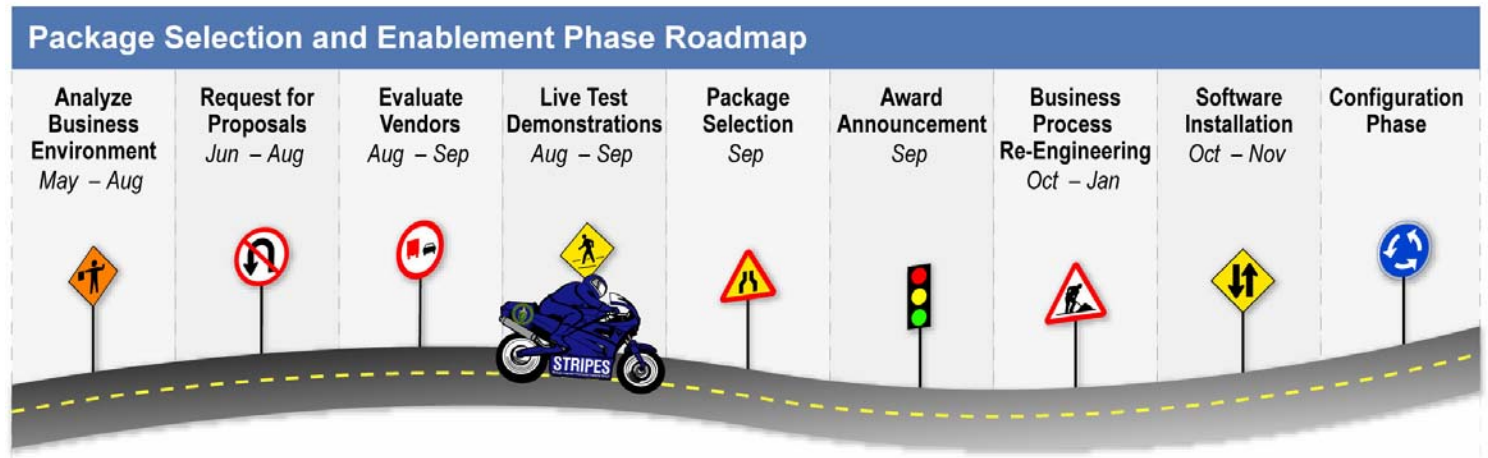




DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY STRIPES

August 14, 2006

The STRIPES Communiqué is one of the many ways you will receive information and progress updates about the STRIPES Project. If you did not receive this communiqué via e-mail and would like to be added to the STRIPES mailing list, send an e-mail to STRIPES@hq.doe.gov with the word “subscribe” in the subject line.



“The Race is on!”

Proposals Received

IBM released the RFP for the STRIPES solution to interested vendors on July 12. A pre-proposal conference was held with interested vendors and software and services requirements were clarified through a meticulous Q&A process. Written proposals which included cost/technical/functional capabilities were submitted to IBM on August 4. **Initial evaluation** was performed on these proposals with an automated proposal evaluation tool known as I-ASSIST. The most viable candidates were identified through a screening process based on written material submitted in their proposal and past performance. This facilitated a down selection process of qualified vendors.

The aggressive schedule proved to be an “early test” for vendors desiring to partner with IBM in providing DOE a viable software solution for STRIPES. Bidders had to make a decision to participate by July 18 and then provide proposals by August 4.

In the RFP, IBM Global Services Procurement invited companies to submit proposals for Commercial Off-the-Shelf (COTS) Software that supports both Procurement and Financial Assistance requirements. The RFP sent to potential DOE STRIPES suppliers stated, “The solution desired is one that provides both electronic requisition processing and contract management functionality capable of delivering, planning, awarding, and administering various unclassified acquisition and financial assistance instruments. The system shall be enterprise-wide and capable of accommodating multiple, geographically diverse procurement activities. The system must also be able to successfully interface with internal systems such as the corporate financial management system and external systems such as Federal Business Opportunities (FedBizOpps), Grants.Gov, Federal Procurement Data System – Next Generation (FPDS-NG), and Central Contractor Registration (CCR).” Now it’s off to the **final evaluation phase**, Live Test Demonstrations (LTD)!

Live Test Demonstrations Begin Today!

The most technically acceptable vendors will demonstrate their procurement and financial assistance software to a joint IBM/DOE evaluation team at the IBM office in Gaithersburg, MD. Each vendor will be given two days between August 14 and 25 in which to showcase a live version of their software in hopes of winning the subcontract for the STRIPES solution. During this phase, test scripts will be used to replicate DOE processes in a live software environment. The objective of the LTD is to substantiate in practice the information provided by the Offeror in their written proposals. Solutions will be evaluated by pre-established requirements (mandatory procurement criteria), non-functional requirements (technical capabilities criteria), and value-adds (beneficial, but not essential capabilities). During the LTD, vendor software demonstrations will run concurrently with technical assessments. As you can see, there's a lot going on in a short time!

IBM intends to select one final offeror to provide product and services in support of the Department's Strategic Integrated Procurement Enterprise System contract. An Offeror can be a single Offeror, an Offeror Team, or a prime Offeror with subcontractor(s). Final assessment and identification for the IBM subcontract is scheduled for September 18. Once IBM has determined the most viable vendor, IBM will review the subcontract proposal with DOE for concurrence.

What's New?

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Technical Area
 - Completed prioritization of the last six technical requirements
 - Completed vendor question responses
 - Completed training on the I-ASSIST tool for use in evaluating the vendor STRIPES proposals
- Functional Area
 - Released RFP
 - Finalized scripts for the Live Test Demonstrations
 - Conducted Pre-Proposal Conference
 - Received & responded to vendor's questions with Regard to the RFP
 - Conducted I-Assist Training / Prepped I-Assist Tool for Evaluators
 - Began drafting the flowcharts for Acquisition and Financial Assistance
 - Prepped Evaluators with the Evaluation Process and Criteria for Vendor Evaluation
 - Received & loaded Proposals into I-Assist Tool
 - Evaluated Initial Vendor Qualification for LTDs

CURRENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS

- Technical Area
 - Technical evaluation of the incoming proposals
- Functional Area
 - We anticipate completion of the Financial Assistance Consortium analysis and recommendations in August. That recommendation will serve as the basis for DOE's decision on procuring a new system or utilizing the consortium system as the future business system for DOE grants management

STRIPES Project Information

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